

KSU accreditation reaffirmed

STATE JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has reaffirmed Kentucky State University's accreditation.

SACS made the announcement at its annual meeting Tuesday in Atlanta.

"The decision to reaffirm Kentucky State University's accreditation confirms our commitment to providing quality programs, so that our students are well-prepared to compete in a challenging, global society," President Mary Evans Sias

said in a press release.

Once colleges and universities earn initial accreditation from a regional accrediting agency like SACS, they must undergo the process of reaffirmation every 10 years.

KSU has been accredited continuously for 70 years, since 1939.

According to the commission, accreditation means that an institution has sufficient resources, programs and services to accomplish and sustain the university's mission and maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consis-

tent with its mission and the degrees it offers.

Reaffirmation of accreditation means that KSU will continue to have access to federal financial aid, student loans and grants.

The accrediting agency determines a university's success at achieving desired outcomes through an evaluation against a common set of standards.

After an on-site review, the accrediting agency asked the university to present its Quality Enhancement Plan, called Academics with Attitude, at its annual meeting. The plan defines an insti-

tution's course of action for improving student learning.

"SACS was pleased with our plan, which outlines aggressive steps to prepare incoming freshmen for the rigors of university life," said interim Provost James Chapman.

"The KSU community embraced 'Academics with Attitude,' which began as a pilot program in 2008. We have already seen significant improvements in English and math proficiencies among our freshman students."